

Workingmen's Houses,  
Bridget Mehan House  
359 South Locust Street  
Dubuque  
Dubuque County  
Iowa

HABS No. IA-159-K

HABS  
IOWA,  
31-DUBU,  
14-K-

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**PHOTOGRAPHS  
HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA**

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Historic American Buildings Survey  
Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
Rocky Mountain Regional Office  
P.O. Box 25287  
Denver Colorado 80225

Workingmen's Houses,  
**Bridget Mehan House**

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HABS No. 1A-159-K

Site Location: 359 South Locust Street  
Dubuque, Dubuque County, Iowa  
DOT designation: Resource Site No. 2.5  
Cadastral grid : SE1/4 SE1/4 S25 T89N R2E  
USGS quadrangle: Dubuque South Iowa 7.5'  
UTM coordinates: 15.691940.4706280  
Lot dimensions : 61'x 100' : .14 acre  
Lot description: South 17' Lot 5, Lot 6  
and North 17' of Lot 7  
of Levi's Addition

Present Owner: Iowa Department of Transportation  
Present Usage: vacant  
Present Condition : fair

Overall Dimensions: 2-story main block: 24'x 16'; open front porch: 12'x 5';  
enclosed rear porch: 21'x 6'6".

Orientation : east

Architectural Plan type : Georgian 1 with enclosed rear porch.

Description : Foundation: parged stone perimeter walls.

Structure : wood frame

Ext. walls: moderate exposure, painted wood beveled siding  
with wrapped corners.

Roofs : interlocking tab, asphalt shingles over steeply  
pitched side-gabled main roof, shallow hipped  
roof over front porch.

Chimneys : one straddle-roof, corbeled interior brick  
chimney, centrally placed.

Dormers : none

Windows : 1/1 double-hung throughout, with exception of  
6-light fixed window on the first story south  
side; plain casings, slip sills.

Openings : centrally placed, single-leaf, paneled front  
door; plain casings.

Porches : centrally placed, one-story wood front porch;  
roof supported by three turned posts with  
wrought iron railing between; latticework  
surrounds porch crawl space.

Details : boxed cornices.

Construction Date : c.1880

Architecture style: Side gabled box

Physical History : Dubuque capitalist and land speculator Alexander Levi  
platted a small residential subdivision along Southern Avenue (now South Locust  
Street) in 1873. In September 1880 he sold this property to Bridget Mehan for

\$300. A widow, she probably built the house around that time. In December 1888 Mehan sold the property to laborer Michael Sullivan, who lived three doors south [HABS No. IA-159-N]. Sullivan in turn transferred the property to his wife in 1901, who returned it to him in 1915. The Sullivans sold the house to Albert Schiers in May 1921. A clerk for the Standard Oil Company, Schiers lived here until about 1930 and continued to hold the house as a rental until 1946. In 1984 the Iowa Department of Transportation acquired the property for demolition. Unlike most of the other nearby houses, this structure has retained a notable degree of architectural integrity, having undergone only minor exterior alterations or additions.

**Significance:** The Bridget Mehan House is a relatively well preserved example of the modest workingman's dwellings built in the 1870s and 1880s along Southern Avenue at the periphery of Dubuque.

**References:** Dubuque City Directories: 1857 - 1970.  
Sanborn Insurance Maps: 1879, 1884, 1891, 1909, 1972.  
Dubuque County Assessment Record: 3-24-2-21.  
Iowa Department of Transportation, "Draft Environmental  
Impact Statement - Cultural Resources Assessment."  
Land Title Abstract (located at Iowa Department of  
Transportation, Ames Iowa).

**Compiler:** Clayton B. Fraser, Fraserdesign, Loveland Colorado.  
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